

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 749

By Calfee

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the City of Rockwood on the occasion of its 150th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly recognize those cities, towns, and communities within Tennessee that are celebrating momentous occasions and marking notable historical events; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rockwood is one such community, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, the land upon which the City of Rockwood is located was originally owned by the Cherokee; Chief Tullentusky signed over title to the property on October 25, 1805, but was allowed to hold a square mile reserve of land, which included what is now known as Brick Yard Springs; and

WHEREAS, in September 1868, General John Wilder and Captain Hiram S. Chamberlain purchased 728 acres of land, including the area known as Kimbrough's Landing, which today is known as Rockwood Landing; and

WHEREAS, in March 1868, the first shipment of materials to build the first furnace arrived at Kimbrough Landing for what proved to be a business venture that would last 100 years; and

WHEREAS, the Roane Iron Company was founded in 1868 and continued to operate for many years, opening and closing several times until it was finally dismantled in 1964; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rockwood was founded as a mining and milling town to serve the employees of the Roane Iron Company; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rockwood was named after William O. Rockwood, the first president of the Roane Iron Company; and

WHEREAS, other industries came to this growing community over the years, including the Rockwood Knitting Mill in 1905, Rockwood Stove Works in 1916, and Chamberlain Memorial Hospital in 1917; and

WHEREAS, in 1875, the City of Rockwood was home to the only two schools in the entirety of Roane County; and

WHEREAS, despite the unpredictable challenges it has faced throughout the years, Rockwood still promotes growth through industry; it has endured for 150 years, and boasting a population of 5,433, it continues to strive for a bright future while preserving its heritage; and

WHEREAS, for the past 150 years, the City of Rockwood has stood as a beacon of all that is good about Tennessee, and its residents are among the State's finest citizens. We are honored to join with these sterling individuals in their recognition of this august occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the City of Rockwood on the occasion of its 150th anniversary, extending our sincere best wishes for the success, prosperity, and happiness of the citizens of Rockwood and the continuation of Rockwood's legacy as a successful Tennessee community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.